

House Bill 1415

By: Representatives Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>, Carter of the 175<sup>th</sup>, Maddox of the 172<sup>nd</sup>, Black of the 174<sup>th</sup>, and Bearden of the 68<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Chapter 12 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to juries, so as to provide protection of certain juror information under certain circumstances; to change certain provisions relating to juror questionnaires; to change certain provisions relating to the examination of jurors; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Chapter 12 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to juries, is amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 15-12-11, relating to appointment of court personnel in certain counties and juror questionnaires, as follows:

"(b) All prospective jurors in all counties may be required to answer written questionnaires, as may be determined and submitted by the judges of such counties, concerning their qualifications as jurors. In propounding the questions, the judges may consider the suggestions of counsel. In the questionnaire and during voir dire examination, judges should ensure that the privacy of prospective jurors is reasonably protected and that the questioning by counsel is consistent with the purpose of the voir dire process. The judges shall keep all jurors' home telephone numbers and addresses confidential unless good cause is shown to the court which would require such disclosure. If the court discloses such information, the court may restrict the use of such information."

**SECTION 2.**

Said chapter is further amended by revising paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of Code Section 15-12-23, relating to clerk of board of jury commissioners, appointment of court personnel in certain counties, and juror questionnaires, as follows:

"(2) All prospective jurors in such counties shall be required to answer questionnaires as may be determined and submitted by said chief judge of such counties concerning their

1 qualifications as jurors. The judge shall keep all jurors' home telephone numbers and  
2 addresses confidential unless good cause is shown to the court which would require such  
3 disclosure. If the court discloses such information, the court may restrict the use of such  
4 information."

### 5 SECTION 3.

6 Said chapter is further amended by revising Code Section 15-12-133, relating to the right to  
7 individual examination of panel and matters of inquiry, as follows:

8 "15-12-133.

9 In all civil cases the parties thereto shall have the right to an individual examination of the  
10 panel of jurors from which the jury is to be selected, without interposing any challenge.

11 In all criminal cases both the state and the defendant shall have the right to an individual  
12 examination of each juror from which the jury is to be selected prior to interposing a  
13 challenge. The examination shall be conducted after the administration of a preliminary  
14 oath to the panel or in criminal cases after the usual voir dire questions have been put by  
15 the court. In the examination, the counsel for either party shall have the right to inquire of  
16 the individual jurors examined touching any matter or thing which would illustrate any  
17 interest of the juror in the case, including any opinion as to which party ought to prevail,  
18 the relationship or acquaintance of the juror with the parties or counsel therefor, any fact  
19 or circumstance indicating any inclination, leaning, or bias which the juror might have  
20 respecting the subject matter of the action or the counsel or parties thereto, and the  
21 religious, social, and fraternal connections of the juror. The court shall keep all jurors'  
22 home telephone numbers and addresses confidential unless good cause is shown to the  
23 court which would require such disclosure. If the court discloses such information, the  
24 court may restrict the use of such information."

### 25 SECTION 4.

26 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.